



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

August 20, 1998

### **S. 2232**

#### **A bill to establish the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in the state of Arkansas, and for other purposes**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
on July 29, 1998*

CBO estimates that initial one-time costs to implement S. 2232 would be about \$1 million over fiscal years 1999 and 2000, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. In addition, CBO estimates that the federal government would spend about \$500,000 annually, beginning in 2000, to operate new facilities authorized by the legislation. Additional one-time expenses also may be incurred after 2000, but their amount cannot be determined at this time.

Enacting S. 2232 would not affect direct spending and receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 2232 would establish as a unit of the National Park System the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in Arkansas. The historic site would be composed of the school building itself (which would continue to be owned and operated by the Little Rock School District), the visitor center currently operated by the Central High Museum, Inc., and other adjacent property including Ponder's Drug Store and some vacant lots. The bill would:

- authorize the National Park Service (NPS) to acquire property at the site by donation, purchase, or exchange,
- direct the NPS to prepare a general management plan for the site along with a theme study to identify similar sites that commemorate racial desegregation in public schools, both within two years of receiving funding for the studies,

- authorize the agency to execute cooperative agreements with public or private agencies, organizations, and institutions to carry out the purposes of the legislation, and
- authorize the appropriation of whatever sums are necessary for these activities.

Based on information provided by the NPS and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that the federal government would spend around \$1 million to prepare the required studies, acquire a small amount of land at the site, develop an interpretive program in conjunction with the museum, and provide minimal facilities such as parking. Beginning in fiscal year 2000, the NPS would need about \$500,000 annually to manage the site, including the costs of assisting the museum in operating the existing visitor center, coordinating volunteer activities, and providing assistance under cooperative agreements. Once the general management plan has been completed, other development projects could be identified. CBO cannot predict what these projects might include, but possibilities include additional visitor facilities, which could cost a few million dollars.

The CBO staff contact is Deborah Reis. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.